CHAPTER V

MISCELLANEOUS

493 *Sleds.* Copper Eskimo sleds had neither side pieces nor handles, but consisted merely of two stout runners joined by a number of crossbars. They averaged in length 14 or 15 feet, but some measured over 20 feet and others [489] less than 4. Sleds under 10 feet in length, however, were rather uncommon; being too short to carry all the household furniture, they served for short trips only, for transporting goods to and from the caches, and, when the family was blessed (or cursed) with many possessions, for relieving the main sled of part of its load.

493 313 [437] The most important parts of a sled were naturally the runners, for suitable logs seldom drifted up on the shores and the forests lay many days' travel to the south. Consequently, both single runners and the completed sleds were valuable articles of trade, current from one end of the country to the other, and natives from remote districts made long journeys to the spruce woods on Coppermine River to manufacture sleds for themselves. Under these conditions, one neither expected, nor could I find, any significant differences in size or shape between the sleds of different districts. One typical of several that I measured had the following dimensions:

	Ft.	Ins.
Length	16	1
Number of crossbars	14	
Breadth between runners	1	8
Width of runners at top		2½
Width of runners at bottom		2
Height of runners		10
Thickness of bone and mud shoeing		2

493 321 The runners of this sled had been shod with bones from a whale that drifted ashore near the eastern end of Dolphin and Union Strait; but the great majority lacked both this bone shoeing, and the shoeing of decayed driftwood that has been described by Stefansson,[1] though it escaped my own observation.

493 823 The same writer says that "In the fall, when the sled is to be used sod is cut in strips as long as convenient and about three inches thick and four inches wide. Lengthwise, along the flat side of these is cut a groove the width of the sled runner and the sod is put under the runners as shoeing. With a little water these are securely frozen to the bottom of the runners, the fuzz of the half-decayed wood holding them securely. The bottom of the runners is then rounded off with an adze or knife so the sod takes the form of a longitudinally bisected cylinder."

[114] I myself did not see this method of cutting and attaching the mud. The natives with whom I travelled on Victoria Island in the autumn of 1915 dug up their mould with mattocks, shredded it inside their snow-huts to remove the roots (which would tend to produce cracks), mixed it with water, and kneaded it into soft balls, each rather larger than a baseball, which they laid along the bottoms of the runners, kneaded together, and smoothed, first with their hands, then, after the mud had frozen, with their snow knives. A few weeks later they patched this shoeing in exactly the same way, after it had been chipped by sharp upstanding stones during their overland journey to the coast. Thenceforward it lasted throughout the winter, although every time a sled was used

[1] Anth. Papers, Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. XIV, p. 78.

29: Jenness E-5 (1914-1916) 1959
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797 months after my visit and carried them south for trial.
609 Both men were sentenced to death, but the penalty
648 was later commuted to two years' imprisonment. They were ultimately restored to their homes, where one of them, profiting by his experience of civilization, rendered useful service to the new police posts that were established in Coronation Gulf.

609 The news that white men were wintering in their country not eighty miles away caused a great commo-
609 tion among the villagers. They anticipated a renewal
437 of their profitable trade with Captain Bernard four years before, and hastily prepared to migrate en
492 masse to Bernard Harbour. Before dawn a long file
489 of sleds, laden five and six feet high with the family possessions, streamed slowly over the snow in the direction of Locker Point. Wives and daughters pulled in front of the dogs, urging them on with frequent cries; fathers and sons hauled behind them, giving added encouragement with their walking-sticks. Here an old woman staggered feebly along, clutching the sled for support; there a dog running loose dragged an old man
854 at the end of its trace. A nine-months-old baby slept peacefully on top of a load, enveloped in a caribou skin to protect it from the wind. Far in the rear came Knife's big sled, loaded to its full capacity, and trailing a smaller sled laden almost as heavily. Wealth has its disadvantages in the Arctic also; Knife could hardly

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transport all his property even with two wives and six dogs.

The natives travelled sixteen miles before they unhitched their teams and built new snow-houses for the night. The men went sealing the next morning, for at this season of the year they rarely had food for more than three days, and could travel long distances only in stages. Elated with the number of seals they captured they moved on the following morning, although the temperature was —29° F., and a howling north-west gale lashed their faces with hard snow. Johansen and I put on masks to protect our cheeks and noses, but discarded them before noon when the thick layer of frost that formed on their inside began to cling to our chins. Many of the Eskimos had their cheeks frozen, still more their wrists, for their short travelling mittens left an uncovered space between the hands and the coat-sleeves. Yet in the height of the storm a woman crouched down in the lee of her sled, withdrew a tiny baby from under her jacket and leisurely changed its sole garment, a diaper of caribou fur. The baby suffered no harm, apparently; but children were not always so fortunate, and the infant mortality was terribly high.

We had no intention of letting this horde of more than a hundred natives break in upon the tranquillity of Bernard Harbour without due warning. Our dogs

1: Jenness--89
116, 231, 492, 556

(1913-16) 1922

Copper Eskimo

"Formerly everything except the stores of food and blubber could be carried on a single sled. The last few years, however, have seen a great increase in the amount of property each family owns.

When the expedition finally left this region in 1916, Ikpakhuak had acquired so many possessions that he was forced to convey them in relays whenever he travelled; and the same was true of other natives. Naturally they require more dogs now to drag their sleds; the problem of feeding them has been rendered a little easier by the introduction of firearms. When Mr. Stefansson first visited these Eskimos very few men had more than two dogs apiece (1); now four and even five are not at all uncommon."

"1. Anthrop. Papers, A. M. N. H., Vol. XIV, pt. I, p. 238."

2: Stefansson--79-80 (1908-12) 1914 Copper Eskimo
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"Ice is no doubt the best form of shoeing ever devised for sledging at low temperatures. We have seen sleds thus shod carrying a thousand pounds and more of load traveling at the rate of two miles an hour hauled by one man, one woman, and two dogs. [80] Traveling in the same company we had some difficulty keeping up with the party with six good dogs and two men hauling six hundred pounds on a steel shod sled such as is now used by all Eskimo west of Baillie Islands. Steel has many advantages and is the best all-round shoeing in spring and fall but it grates on the snow as on sand when used at temperatures prevalent in the Arctic from December to April. Ice is the best possible shoeing for low temperatures, it most nearly eliminates friction."

2: Stefansson--257 (1908-12) 1914 Copper Eskimo
492, 117

"The dogs have pack of a single seal pōk split down one entire side and laced, apparently to suit contents, the lacing being tightened if load grows smaller."

321 412 tool, and the drill. In our time nearly all these tools had steel or iron blades, and a fifth had been added, a small saw with a blade of hoop iron. Saws were not numerous, however, and it was still a common sight to see a native scoring deep cuts in bone or antler with his grooving tool and then breaking out sections with his adze. The curved whittling knife gave the final shape, and rubbing, first with stone or sand and then with a strip of hide, the smoothness and polish. Musk-ox horn alone was susceptible of a different treatment; to make from it ladles and scoops, the natives split it longitudinally, steamed it over their cooking pots, then opened it out and bent it to shape by simple pressure and hammering.

237 There was current among the Copper Eskimo one other substance similar to the foregoing, baleen, but it was rather scarce, and in the eastern part of the territory almost unknown. Whether it came from stranded whales, or was 237 brought in from the west, I did not discover. The natives used it, apparently, 227 for fishing lines only, lines mainly for catching tomcod during the winter months 283 when the more usual lines of sinew tended to become brittle with encrusted ice. I never saw them cut or split baleen, but doubtless they used the whittling knife for this purpose.

HIDES AND SINEW

237 [433] It is hard for the civilized inhabitant of a warmer country to realize the immense importance of skins in the domestic economy of the Copper Eskimo. They provide him with clothes and bedding throughout both winter and summer, bags in which to store his clothing, a tent for use nearly half the year when a snow-hut was either uncomfortable or impossible, a cover for his kayak, straps and lashings for his sled, harnesses and traces for the dogs, lines and lashings for harpoons and other weapons, packing lines, dog packs, water buckets, pokes for meat and blubber, and other articles for which Europeans utilize cloth, rope, or metal. It was, consequently, of the utmost importance to the native that he should know how to treat skins to the best advantage. Fortunately, the two animals on which he depended most for his food, the seal and the caribou, were precisely the ones whose hides were the most useful.

28 [225] *Seal Skins.* The Copper Eskimo had two methods of skinning a seal. They generally made a cut around the base of each flipper, another around the neck, and a third down the belly, after which they separated the skin from the blubber with a knife. As it was impossible to remove all the blubber in this way, the [462] skin was then soaked in warm water. Holding one end in her mouth while the [412] other remained in the pot, the woman (for the work almost invariably fell on the housewife) scraped it thoroughly with her curved knife. As soon as the weather was warm enough she set it out to dry, sometimes on top of the house, sometimes on the ground, sometimes pegged over and around a block of snow.

[415] A sealskin thus dried was roughly oval in shape and still retained the hair on the outside. If you folded in the ends, doubled it over and tied a line to each end, you had the common Copper Eskimo fishing bag; if you laced each [492] end across through the holes by which it was pegged out, you had a dog pack, broad and flat in the middle where it rested on the animal's back, and bag-shaped at each end for holding the meat or clothing. The hair was no 28 disadvantage in such skins; indeed, for raincoats and for spring foot gear it 294 was indispensable, but as the skin was more supple without it, it was generally removed by resoaking in warm water and scraping with a knife. To soften the skin still more, and to change the outer surface from a dark colour to white, it was subjected to further scraping, and, after drying, rubbed between the hands and chewed between the teeth, when odd scraps that came away found lodging in the chewer's stomach. From these creamy white skins were made the sealskin

one needle, 8 inches long, the splinter was mounted in a wooden handle. The line was of sealskin, generally closed at the far end with a stick of bone, antler, or wood to prevent the fish from slipping off.

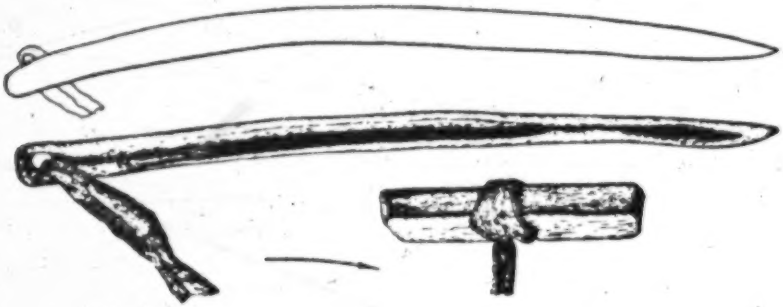


Figure 133. Bone needle for stringing fish. IV.D.461. Approx. 2/3.

Fish Bags. To pack their fish to camp the Eskimo used a bag of sealskin, commonly made by folding in the ends of a whole skin, doubling it over and tying a line to each end. The same bag, laced across, served as a dog-pack.

Fish Spears. Two varieties of fish spear were employed, the trident and the leister. The leister was preferred for spearing trout and salmon in lakes when they came to nibble at the lure, the trident for the migrating salmon that entered the weirs across streams; but generally a man used whichever weapon happened to be nearest at hand.

The shape of the leister is best seen from the illustration (Figure 134*a*). The handle was simply a long pole, split at the end to receive a barbed, occasionally barbless, point of antler, which was held in place with a lashing of sealskin, or more rarely of sinew. Two prongs facing each other, which sprang open on striking the fish, were invariably of copper or iron, copper, of course, being the original material; they were driven like nails into antler heads, which were bevelled off at the lower ends to fit corresponding ends on wooden extensions. Antler and wood were spliced with sealskin lashing, strengthened at times by bone or antler nails. The wooden extensions were then bevelled off in the same manner and lashed to the shaft, but not nailed, as low ridges at their tips prevented the lashings from slipping off. All these lashings quickly dried up from disuse, and the parts fell asunder except where they were held together by pegs. In a few leisters the side pieces were entirely of antler, not of antler and wood combined.

The trident (Figure 134*b*) resembled the leister, but had no prongs on the side pieces, which were made entirely of antler, pointed and barbed like the point in the middle. The number of barbs varied; in some cases they were directly opposite, in others staggered, both arrangements occurring at times on the same weapon.

Double-pointed spears were sometimes improvised for stabbing sculpins, or the small fish that hide under the stones on the margins of lakes. I have seen two sharpened pieces of bone, and even a European fork, lashed to the end of a walking-stick for this purpose. Naturally, they were dismantled again as soon as the need for them passed.

All sealers carried these bone skewers stuck in a strip of skin, but not all of them burdened themselves with a bag and a spare harpoon. Lacking the bag, they merely cut a hole in the strip of skin for slipping it over the coat button.

Toggle for Leading Dog. Figure 149 illustrates the usual toggle for leading a dog to the sealing ground. In principle it is the same as the toggle on the harness. The rigid parts are of bone, antler, or musk-ox horn; the cord and strap, of sealskin or caribou leg sinew. The broad loop hung over the sealer's wrist, and the small toggle buttoned into the loop at the end of the dog trace. There was no variation except in size, and no ornamentation.

Toggles for Hauling Seals. Toggles for hauling seals were indistinguishable from women's belt toggles (*See* page 50). Like most of the latter they were made of bone, antler, or musk-ox horn, nearly always the first, measured between 2½ and 4 inches from tip to tip, and had the shape of a crescent that tapered towards each end. Two ends of a short cord of sealskin, or more usually of plaited sinew, were passed through the hole and knotted to form a loop (Figure 150). The sealer threaded the toggle through a hole in the seal's mouth, passed it back through the loop and attached it to the trace of his dog, which then dragged the carcass home.

Sealing toggles, like other bone implements, were often ornamented with incised lines. These will be discussed in another place.

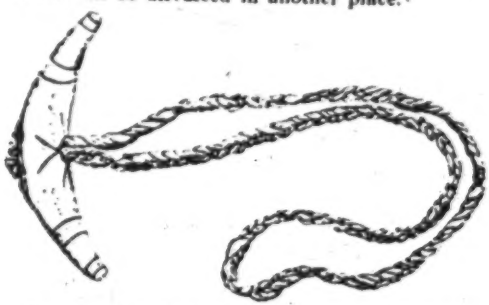


Figure 150. Toggle for hauling seals. IV.D.197. 1/2.

LAND HUNTING EQUIPMENT

Bows and Arrows

Most bows were made from three pieces of spruce wood, a middle piece and two "horns," joined together with the usual "cleft" or V splice (Figure 151*b*). Bows made from a single piece of wood were comparatively rare (Figure 151*a*), though one, owned by a 6-foot Tree River native, was stronger than any of the three-piece weapons. From the eastern end of Coronation Gulf came a few bows built up from musk-ox horn, caribou antler, or both materials combined (Figure 152), indicating a dearth of suitable wood in that region. In one of them, two pieces of musk-ox horn have been joined wth a cleft splice, but elsewhere in this bow, and in all other bows of horn or antler, the makers have used the less difficult scarfed splice, and strengthened it in places with copper or iron rivets. A few wooden bows have scarfed joints also, but they are mostly small weapons for women and children.

Because dry spruce has little tensility and easily fractures, every bow was strengthened with a score or more strands of braided sinew[1] that extended along the whole back and passed around the nocks (Figure 151). Some hunters

[1] One bow, a small one for a woman or child, has thongs of rawhide, presumably from want of sinew.

its owner streamed water over the mud to produce the thin coating of ice that reduced friction to a minimum.[1] By the end of April, however, it required protection from the growing warmth; the Eskimo, therefore, draped the sunward sides of their sleds with skins when in motion, and piled snow over the runners when at rest. In May even this protection failed them; gradually the mud melted and fell away.

The tops and bottoms of the runners were roughly parallel except in front, where the bottoms curved upward like a ski. Spaced about a foot apart were the flat crossbars, each lashed down at the ends with a rawhide thong that passed two or three times over the bar and a corresponding number of times through a hole in the runner below. To the front crossbar was attached also the toggle that bore the strain of the traces, a "new-moon-shaped" object of musk-ox horn, slotted in the middle and suspended between the runners by means of a belt of stout rawhide, preferably from the skin of the bearded seal (Figure 177); each end of the belt passed from the inside through a special hole in the runner below the front crossbar and then "button-holed" over the projecting end of that bar. There seemed to be no variation in the shape of this sled toggle, nor did I see any that were not made of musk-ox horn, which indicates that the animals were comparatively numerous a few years ago within the territory of the Copper Eskimo.

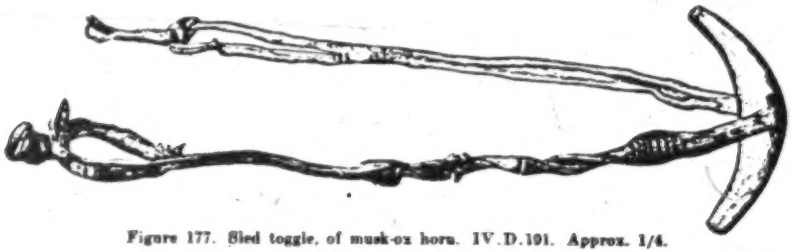


Figure 177. Sled toggle, of musk-ox horn. IV.D.191. Approx. 1/4.

In the late spring and early summer, when a sled was difficult to drag over the numerous patches of bare ground, the Copper Eskimo commonly substituted the skin of a seal or polar bear, which glided with much less friction over soil and stones. In the autumn, again, before recovering the sleds they had abandoned late in the spring, they sometimes fashioned runners from skins, which they held in shape with fillings of willow branches and ice, and equipped with crossbars in the usual manner. On one occasion a native even used a block of ice for a sled; he merely rounded the bottom a little and grooved the front end for the attachment of his trace.

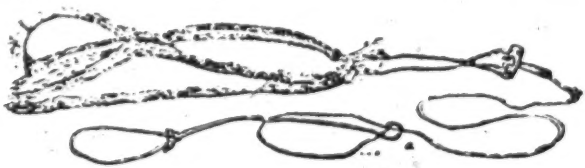
Two Eskimo who travelled from Backs River to our station in the winter of 1915-16 dragged sleds that were longer, narrower, and with lower runners than any I saw among the Copper Eskimo, but in all other respects seemed identical. One of them had a square sail of dehaired caribou hide mounted near the front to take advantage of the favourable wind; this, of course, was not an aboriginal invention, but reflected the influence of Europeans.

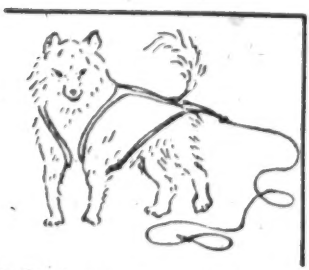
Sleds rarely carried any ornamentation. We observed only two instances, both of which consisted of a simple Y pattern painted in red and black on the sides of the runners where they began to turn upward.

Harness. Like other Eskimo previous to European contact, the natives around Coronation Gulf hitched their dogs to the sled fanwise, with individual

[1] *See* Reports of the Can. Arct. Exped., vol. XII, pp. 116, 119. The Copper Eskimo never mixed blood with the water, or used blood alone, as was commonly done by their countrymen farther to the east.

traces 15 to 40 feet long that looped over the sled toggle and could all be released simultaneously. The harness, shaped as in Figure 178*a*, was of skin, nearly always the leg skins of the caribou with the hair left on. The loops that passed around the dog's forelegs joined across the shoulders and again below the throat, usually by short yokes, to produce a loop for the head. Two strips of skin then ran backward from the neck yoke, and one from each leg loop ran upward, their ends coming together, in a properly fitted harness, just over the root of the tail, where they were lashed in pairs with rawhide and the rawhide fastened to a slot in the pin of the trace toggle. This trace toggle (Figure 178*b*), made of bone, antler, or musk-ox horn, invariably contained two parts, a pin knobbed in the rear and slotted in front, and a square plaque with one large round hole in the middle for the insertion of the pin, and a smaller hole in each of the four corners for the attachment of the trace. The pin turned freely in the plaque and kept the trace untwisted however often the dog rolled over and over on its back; and the knob at one end, the rawhide lashing at the other, held it securely in place.





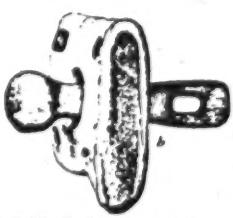


Figure 178. Dog harness. *a*, complete harness, IV.D.816, 1/16; *b*, bone swivel for the trace, IV.D.193, 3/4.

When not in use harnesses were commonly stored on the roofs of the snow-houses but in summer the dogs wore them continually, for the long traces served to hold on the back-packs, and, in camp, to attach the animals to stones. Often their hungry wearers tore them to shreds; or the harnesses broke and were patched together again. In one such emergency a woman devised a makeshift harness from a broad strip of sealskin; she slit it in three places, inserted the dog's head through the middle slit and a leg through each of the other two, tied the corners of the skin to the trace, and started the day's journey undismayed.

The harness worn by the Eskimo himself when hauling on the sled had a similar trace to the dog harness, and was hitched to the sled toggle in the same manner, but it consisted merely of a broad band of sealskin, less often caribou skin, that passed over the chest, and was lashed to the end of the trace without any intervening toggle (Figure 179). Women and children pulled in front of the dogs, men behind. The Copper Eskimo did not use whips, but the men often urged on their teams with walking-sticks. Most families had only from two to three dogs, none more than five, owing to the difficulty of feeding the animals.

492

Packs. Dog packs were flat sheets of sealskin, oval in outline, and perforated with holes along the two longer sides for cross lacings. Each end was filled like a bag, and the middle section left empty so that it would lie flat on the dog's back. The trace of the harness was drawn down over one side bag, under the animal's belly, and up over the other side bag; it was then pulled taut, and fastened to the end of the harness. At the end of summer dog packs were often cut up for boot soles, or used on the floors of the snow-huts.

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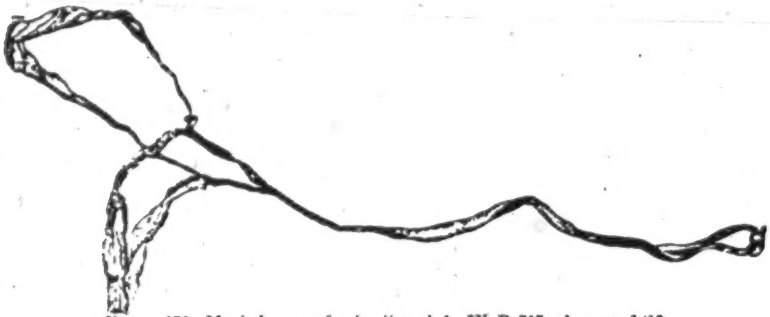

Figure 179. Man's harness for hauling sled. IV.D.717. Approx. 1/10.

The average dog could carry only from 30 to 40 pounds, so that the Eskimo had to transport most of his belongings on his own back, inside his caribou-hide bedskin, by means of a shoulder strap and tump-line. The skin was laid flat on the ground and the articles piled in line on top of it, weight and bulk being distributed as evenly as possible between the two ends. The bundle was then rolled up and lashed with a long sealskin thong in two, or, in a large bundle, three places, the two ends and the middle. What remained of the thong became the shoulder strap; it passed from a loop held by a half hitch at one end of the bundle to a similar loop at the other. The tump-line, which was a band of sealskin or caribou skin with a thong tied to each end, fastened to the thong lashing of the bundle at any convenient points, but usually just behind the end loops.[1]

482 [492] [284]

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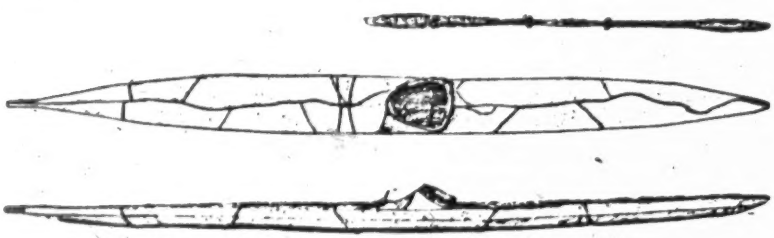

Figure 180. Kayak and paddle. IV.D.1057. Approx. 1/24.

Kayaks. The Copper Eskimo had never seen a umiak, and they used their kayaks (Figure 180) not for hunting seals, but only for ferrying across bays and rivers and for spearing caribou that had been driven into the water. Though a hunter generally made or bought a kayak at some time or other in his career,

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[1] For illustration *See* Reports of the Canadian Arctic Expedition, vol. XII, pt. A., Pl. V, p. 288.

284 knot; or by a modification of the bowline. The sheep-shank was frequently
[492] used to shorten a dog's trace, so that the animal was brought nearer to the sled and to the stick of his master.

An unfinished thumb knot, where the end was not passed through the loop but remained outside so that the knot could be easily untied, was the usual knot for making one end of a line fast to a stone or a post. Just as our soldiers often use this knot for tying horses to a ground line, so the Eskimo employed it for tying their dogs to boulders. I never saw amongst them the other knot we often employ for the same purpose, the clove hitch, or its development, the clove-hitch bend. The ordinary hitch, however, came in for a multitude of uses,
[356] especially while packing in summer. For instance, the household gear was rolled up in the sleeping skins and made fast by an ingenious combination of loops and half hitches, and the end of the line that remained over became the carrying strap that passed around the shoulders.

29: Jenness E-5 (1914-1916) 1959
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p 42-E

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They built their settlement close to the beach.

29: Jenness E-5 (1914-1916) 1959
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(p. 42-F)

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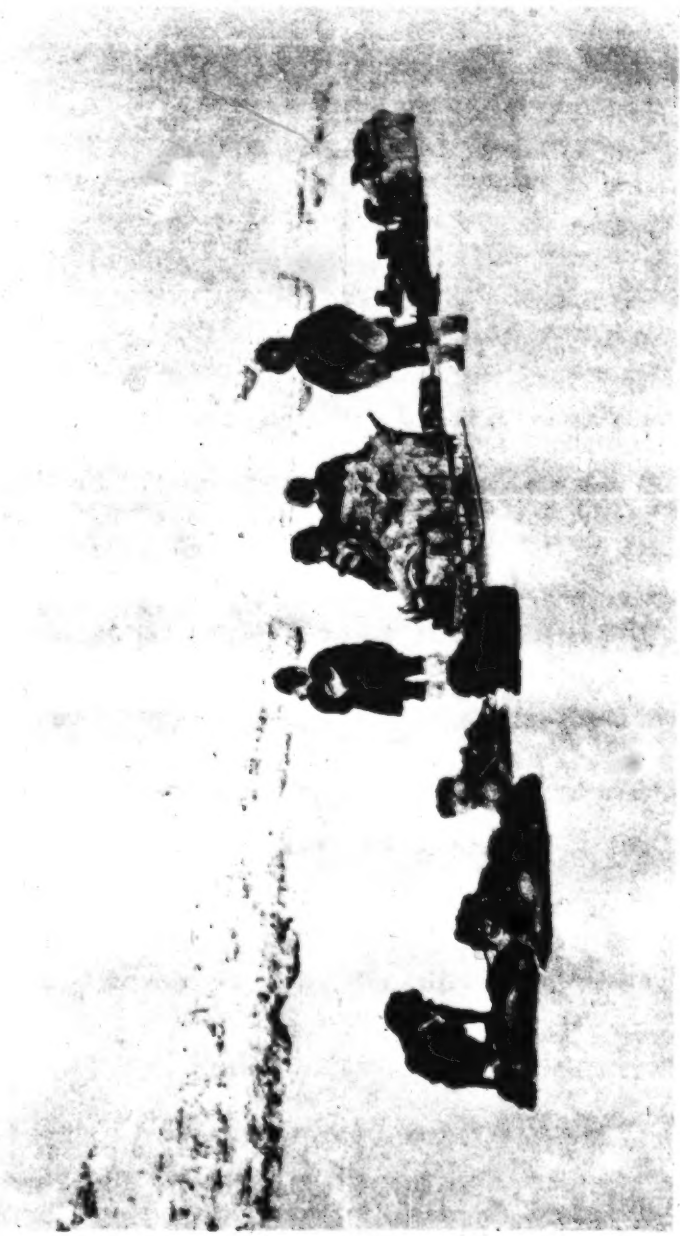

We distributed our loads in the proportion of a hundred pounds for each dog. *Photo by F. Johnsen.*

29: Jenness E-5 (1914-1916) 1959
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P 42-G].

Photo by J. J. O'Neill 48
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Wives and daughters pulled in front of the dogs.

29: Jenness E-5 (1914-1916) 1959
ND8 Copper Eskimo ND8

797 609 648 months after my visit and carried them south for trial. Both men were sentenced to death, but the penalty was later commuted to two years' imprisonment. They were ultimately restored to their homes, where one of them, profiting by his experience of civilization, rendered useful service to the new police posts that were established in Coronation Gulf.

609 The news that white men were wintering in their country not eighty miles away caused a great commo- 609 tion among the villagers. They anticipated a renewal 437 of their profitable trade with Captain Bernard four years before, and hastily prepared to migrate en 492 masse to Bernard Harbour. Before dawn a long file 489 of sleds, laden five and six feet high with the family possessions, streamed slowly over the snow in the direction of Locker Point. Wives and daughters pulled in front of the dogs, urging them on with frequent cries; fathers and sons hauled behind them, giving added encouragement with their walking-sticks. Here an old woman staggered feebly along, clutching the sled for support; there a dog running loose dragged an old man [854] at the end of its trace. A nine-months-old baby slept peacefully on top of a load, enveloped in a caribou skin to protect it from the wind. Far in the rear came Knife's big sled, loaded to its full capacity, and trailing a smaller sled laden almost as heavily. Wealth has its disadvantages in the Arctic also; Knife could hardly

29: Jenness E-5 (1914-1916) 1959
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transport all his property even with two wives and six dogs.

The natives travelled sixteen miles before they unhitched their teams and built new snow-houses for the night. The men went sealing the next morning, for at this season of the year they rarely had food for more than three days, and could travel long distances only in stages. Elated with the number of seals they captured they moved on the following morning, although the temperature was —29° F., and a howling north-west gale lashed their faces with hard snow. Johansen and I put on masks to protect our cheeks and noses, but discarded them before noon when the thick layer of frost that formed on their inside began to cling to our chins. Many of the Eskimos had their cheeks frozen, still more their wrists, for their short travelling mittens left an uncovered space between the hands and the coat-sleeves. Yet in the height of the storm a woman crouched down in the lee of her sled, withdrew a tiny baby from under her jacket and leisurely changed its sole garment, a diaper of caribou fur. The baby suffered no harm, apparently; but children were not always so fortunate, and the infant mortality was terribly high.

We had no intention of letting this horde of more than a hundred natives break in upon the tranquillity of Bernard Harbour without due warning. Our dogs

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Photo by K. G. Chipman.

It was a picturesque sight, this train of people and dogs stumbling over hill and lake.

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776 westward where I generally made my excursions,
123 trapped and destroyed the solitary hunter. In this very district, many years before, it had spirited away her first husband, who had vanished without leaving a trace. So when I, too, vanished for sixteen hours one day she became greatly alarmed, and entreated Ikpuck to lead a searching party. Willy-nilly, I had to join the fishermen and let my dogs go hungry.

226 The fish soon commenced to bite less freely in the surrounding lakes, and some of the men wandered far-
224 ther afield. Ikpuck then shot a caribou eight miles
361 away near the shore of Lake Ever-Frozen. Instead
484 of packing it home, he buried it in the snow and advised
[492] moving our camp to its vicinity. Every one welcomed his suggestion and prepared back-packs for the dogs, since the melting of the snow on the ridges rendered
[251] our sleds useless until autumn came round again. We concealed in stone cairns the dried fish we had accumulated, raised the empty sleds on stone pillars, and piled on top of them all the stone lamps and other articles too heavy or too bulky to carry around with us during the summer; then, packing on our backs the remainder of the equipment, we abandoned the Lake of Dancing and marched away to our new home.

484 It was a picturesque sight, this train of people and
482 dogs staggering over hill and lake under burdens almost equal in size and weight to themselves. The men carried the tents and weapons, the women the

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sleeping-gear, spare clothing, and cooking utensils, and the little children their own bedding and whatever else their strength permitted. With the packs lying horizontally across their backs they resembled from a distance dark crosses that crept over the snow, now strung out in irregular formation, now filing one behind another in single line, now clustering together with little movement as the train halted to rest. The dogs trailed behind the women and children, their packs, shaped like saddle-bags, beating against their ribs or grooving continuous furrows in the snow; but they, too, inherited the pioneering blood and adventurous spirit of their masters, and, in spite of their heavy burdens, curled their tails jauntily over their backs and cocked their ears at the alert.

Slowly we filed across Lake Ever-Frozen and deposited our loads on the shore of a deep inlet at its northern end. In a broad pool created by a stream that foamed down the hill-side a red-throated loon gaily dived and rose to the surface again. Ikpuck seized his fish-trident and raced over the ice to spear it; but just as he reached the margin of the pool the ice gave way, and plunged him in water to his waist. The loon flew up, and the mortified hunter returned to the bank to change his clothing. He had stripped off everything but his jacket—like a swallow-tail coat, it reached to his waist in front and hung down in a long tail behind—when a second loon settled in the same

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ring its passage to the sea. To the north lay a broad, sandy plain, the bed of an ancient lake, and beyond, an isolated, rounded hill flanked by soft meadows that were certain to harbour caribou. We all forded the stream without mishap except Jennie, who had dropped behind when readjusting the packs of two dogs. I went back to look for her, while the others pushed on across the plain. The poor child was nearly a mile in the rear, still struggling cheerfully with the ill-balanced packs that persisted in slipping under the animals' bellies. I rearranged them for her, and we hurried on to overtake our companions; but a fierce sand-storm now swept the plain, and our progress was slow and painful, with frequent returnings to urge on the dogs. Dogs and storm combined delayed us so greatly that the hunters, tired of waiting for us at the hill, went on ahead to intercept a herd of caribou they had sighted, leaving little Knife-Blade to watch for me and request me to join them with all speed.

This hunt well illustrated the unity of an Eskimo band. Every individual, man, woman, and child, took part in it—except The Listener's wife, who, being old and feeble, remained to guard the packs; and both men and women contributed to the discussion that decided the tactics to be employed. At the foot of the hill stretched a lake three-quarters of a mile in diameter, and, beyond it, a wide, grassy plain where fifteen caribou were grazing. The plain rose in a gentle incline